

GREAT STORY OF ROLAND B. MOLINEUX

FROM HOME TO DEATH CELL AND BACK TO FREEDOM

Remarkable Narrative of the Most Sensational Murder Trial That Ever Occurred in the History of Criminal Jurisprudence, Involving the Life of a Man of Proud and Patriotic Lineage.

By DOUGLAS STORY

"Your Honor, I am prepared to hear you sentence me. I am not afraid, for I am not guilty."

Roland Molineux's words ring today with a significance they did not bear that 16th day of February, 1900, when first he uttered them. Then they were the calm pronouncement of a man accused and convicted of murder. Today they are the triumphant utterances of a man whose innocence has been pronounced by the court.

For 354 days Roland Molineux waited in the Tombs the striking of the hour when the grim Recorder would say to him:

"The judgment of the court is that you, Roland Burnham Molineux, for the murder in the first degree of Katherine J. Adams, whereof you are convicted, be, and you hereby are, sentenced to the punishment of death."

For twenty long months he lay in the death house at Sing Sing, tortured by the elusive hope of a second trial, of a trial where he might disentangle himself from the web in which he had become enmeshed.

For sixteen months he has waited in the Tombs the striking of the hour when Judge Lambert would order his discharge. And through it all he bore himself with the confident air of an innocent man, with unflinching hope, with unfaltering courage.

The Terrible Penalty of the Law's Delay.

To read, in the light of today, the full two million words of testimony that form the record of the first trial,

is to read a history of terrible suffering caused by the law's delay, of cruel outrage to the loving hearts that yearned to the prisoner, of the awful responsibility assumed by fallible humanity in appropriating to itself the functions of the Almighty. This is a cynical age, but the man were worse than a cynic who could listen unmoved to those concluding words of the counsel for the defendant at the close of the first trial:

"This defendant stands before you clothed in the presumption of innocence. You are sworn to decide this case on facts alone; not on guesses, inferences, and probabilities. You must decide that this defendant alone is responsible for the death of Mrs. Adams, if you are to find him guilty."

"My task is done. The fate of this prisoner is in your hands; guilty or innocent; life or death. You are to consign him to a disgraceful and ignominious death or to liberty."

Is there anything more like the power of the Eternal than the power confided to you? I ask you only to consider the facts carefully, conscientiously, mercifully, before you speak a verdict that shall cut asunder all the ties of this man's life—that means the end for him and all that are his.

To those of us who remember that the first trial cost the State close upon three hundred thousand dollars; that the cost of the expert evidence alone was fifty thousand dollars; that a rich man begged himself that his son might have opportunity to clear his name, it is appalling to consider the chances of a poor man similarly accused.

We have no thought of criticising the several courts before which the Molineux case came. They must act according to the established formalities of the law, and, until the case reached the strong and capable hands of Judge Lambert, circumstances seem to have conspired to make its progress slow. But it is nothing less than shocking that a man who has finally been pronounced guiltless should lie for nearly four years in prison, much of the time with a sentence of death hanging over his head.

Roland B. Molineux owes his deliverance to the devotion of a father possessed of the means to purchase in his defense the most subtle forensic talent of the day; to gain for him every favoring incident of judicial procedure. What hope would there have been for the poor man caught in the same net of circumstantial testimony? And yet is it the vaunt of our civilization that justice is meted out alike to the rich man and to the poor. God help the penniless prisoner similarly indicted, for his fellow-man will have scant mercy.

It was a fortunate day for Molineux when the talent of ex-Governor Black was enlisted in his defense. Had this able lawyer been the prisoner's counsel at the time of his first trial, it is not likely that he would have been convicted of the murder of Mrs. Adams. Had not Mr. Black taken part in the second trial, Molineux might still be under sentence of death. The ex-governor's work in this historical case showed that he is probably the foremost living pleader in great criminal trials. He is a man of such rugged force, such mastery of elemental human power, as was Abraham Lincoln.

On the twenty-eighth day of December, 1898, a woman woke in a New York apartment house with a headache. She sought relief from her suffering, and a laudanum administered a dose from a bottle he alleged had been sent him as a Christmas gift anonymously through the mails. The dose contained a deadly poison, and within an hour the woman was dead.

The problem set the police was to trace the poison from the hand that placed it in the bottle to the woman who, by means of it, unwillingly met her death.

All of the elaborate theory subsequently constructed by the prosecution was founded upon the narrative of one man—the man who administered the fatal poison to the murdered woman.

(Continued on Second Page.)

MOLINEUX SAFE IN WIFE AND MOTHER'S CARE

His Aged Father Goes to
Daily Work as Usual.

POLICE STILL GUARD HOUSE

Defense of Son Consumed Parent's
Private Fortune, But He Is More
Than Satisfied.

NEW YORK, Nov. 12.—Two policemen guarded the Molineux house last night until 6 o'clock this morning, when they were relieved by other policemen. The bulk of the crowd that thronged the street last night in front of the house had gone by 11 o'clock, and the stragglers had all disappeared by 12.

General Molineux and two of his sons left the house at 5:45 o'clock this morning for the Devoe Paint Works, where the general is a member of the firm and the young men are employed. General Molineux shook hands with the policemen, and on the way to the car said: "I'm all through. I'm satisfied now. The boy is acquitted, and there is no blemish against him. Roland is now in the care of his mother and his wife until he gets his land legs. Then he will decide what he will do. I have done my part and helped him as much as I could. Several places have been offered to me for him, but I have not submitted them to him yet."

Cost a Fortune.

The defense of his son is supposed to have cost General Molineux a sum of money very large in proportion to his means. At the time of the first trial he was understood to have owned a comfortable competence, but in no sense a fortune. He declared when offers of financial assistance were made to him by friends in the Grand Army and other circles that he would spend every cent he had to fight for his son's freedom before he would accept aid.

Harry Cornish's attack on Justice Lambert and Bartow S. Weeks as a result of the Molineux verdict called forth today from Mr. Weeks this stinging reply:

"I do not intend to enter into a controversy with a man of the character of Cornish. We have not and do not intend to place before anyone the evidence we have against Cornish. We were not after anyone's blood. We are not after Cornish's blood."

"If he can go through life and get any happiness out of it, he is welcome to do so unmolested by the lawyers for Molineux."

ATTORNEY NILES STILL IN NEW YORK ON HUGHES CASE

Edward G. Niles, the local attorney for Mrs. Louise B. Hughes, who was recently released from a New York private sanitarium, is still in New York. He is not expected back before the last of this week.

IRISH LAND PURCHASE BILL.

LONDON, Nov. 12.—In the House of Commons today Prime Minister Balfour announced that an Irish land purchase bill would be the principal government measure of the Parliamentary session of 1902.

COMPLIMENT FIREMEN ON THEIR GOOD WORK

District Commissioners Highly Pleased
With Exhibition Drill—Fine Ap-
pearance in Parade.

Expressions of gratification of the District Commissioners over the admirable showing made by the Fire Department in the exhibition drill near the White House yesterday afternoon will be conveyed to the men in a general order. Chief Dutton has been instructed to extend the Commissioners' congratulations upon the fine appearance made by the men and the proficiency shown.

The exhibition of the method of operating the water tower, showing its adaptability for fighting fires in high buildings, was a revelation to many of the spectators. The tower was purchased over a year ago, and has been used in actual service only once, but it was demonstrated then to be a most valuable adjunct to the District Fire Department. The occasion was a fire in a large feed house on Delaware Avenue.

The tower is kept at Truck C station, Fourteenth Street and Ohio Avenue. It is equipped with three nozzles, which can be adjusted at any angle.

One of the most interesting features of the exhibition was the demonstration of the use of the Bowler life-saving net. Each truck is equipped with a net, which consists of heavy canvas stretched by a metal rim. Fireman Charles Wolz yesterday made a twenty-foot jump from a ladder of the truck into the net, which was held by members of the company.

There has been no occasion as yet, for actual use of the nets, but it is appreciated that they may prove a most valuable addition to the equipment of a fire department in a city where high buildings abound. Chief Dutton witnessed last year a test in Minneapolis, where a woman jumped sixty feet and was caught in a net without the slightest injury.

DAUGHTERS OF COL. M'KAY SEEK TO ENJOIN WIDOW

Suit Filed to Secure Title to
K Street Mansion.

Mrs. Elizabeth R. Wiedersheim and Mrs. Harriet A. Kneisl, daughters of the late Col. Nathaniel McKay, today filed suit against his widow, Mrs. Mabel Grace McKay, and Joseph J. F. Klein to enjoin the former from selling or encumbering premises 1311 K Street northwest and to compel the latter to make title of the property to the complainants. The court is also asked to restrain Mrs. McKay from placing upon the land records of the District any of the deeds for premises 1311 K Street except the one from Howell E. and William H. Jackson to the defendant Klein.

The court is also asked to pass a decree declaring the three deeds made by Klein to Mrs. McKay, conveying the property to her, invalid and void. The circumstances relative to the purchase of the property by Colonel McKay, his having the title made to Joseph J. F. Klein, the reconveyance of it to himself and the making of deeds for it to Mrs. McKay, which have heretofore been published, are recited in the petition. Cole & Donaldson are named as counsel for the complainant.

BUILDERS DELAYED BY INSPECTOR'S OFFICE

Mr. Simmons Makes Com-
plaint to Commissioners.

LONG WAITS FOR PERMITS

Laws Faulty—No Necessity That Plans
Go to Secretary of War—Mr.
Ashford's Reply.

The District Commissioners today received a communication from Leo Simmons, attorney for several builders of this city, complaining of the slowness of the Building Department in issuing permits. He states that some of his clients have waited more than four weeks to obtain their permits for building purposes.

Mr. Simmons adds that he does not wish to be understood as charging this to any person in particular, or to say that it is the fault of the Inspector of Buildings or of his subordinates, but he declares that there is something wrong. He says his clients complain about the complicated requirements of the building regulations, and cites the provision that permits for certain classes of work be approved by the War Department. He calls attention to the fact that even before steps can be placed in front of a building over the parking line the matter has to go to Secretary Root.

Unnecessary Regulations.

Such a regulation, he declares, is entirely unnecessary, for the Commissioners, he thinks, are competent to judge of such matters. Mr. Simmons suggests that an amendment to this law, requiring that projections more than five feet beyond the building line be submitted to the Secretary of War, would be reasonable, and that objections less than this should be left to the discretion of the Commissioners.

There are many other things required by the regulations that are wholly unnecessary and burdensome, in Mr. Simmons' opinion. He suggests that a hearing be given to parties interested, with a view to a presentation of the facts for the enlightenment of the Board of Commissioners.

Snowden Ashford, Inspector of Buildings, in commenting upon Mr. Simmons' letter said this afternoon that in ordinary procedure a permit for a dwelling house or a row of houses goes through the office in three or four days, and the permit for a big office building is issued within ten days after the application is made. In cases where applicants are called upon to wait four weeks for a permit there is invariably something wrong with the plans. To rectify such plans causes delay, which is not due to any fault of the office, he says.

The Question of Projections.

With reference to the question of projections, Mr. Ashford suggests there is a strange contradiction in the laws. That which Mr. Simmons cites requires all projections beyond the building line to be referred to the Secretary of War. Other statutes place the control of the parking in the hands of the Commissioners. Mr. Ashford says there is only one class of projections which ought to be referred to the Secretary of War, and this is on buildings which front on the parks owned and controlled by the United States Government.

ODELL AND PLATT HOLD CONFERENCE TODAY

Governor of New York Favors Latter's
Return to the United States
Senate.

NEW YORK, Nov. 12.—Governor Odell came to this city yesterday afternoon to attend the chamber of commerce banquet at the Waldorf-Astoria and remained over today for a conference with Senator Platt and other Republican leaders. Governor Odell is not a candidate for the United States Senate. His position was announced by the governor himself at the Fifth Avenue Hotel. He said: "I am in favor of Senator Platt's reelection, and I have no doubt he will be re-elected. I know of no one who is opposed to his return. The relations between the Senator and myself are, as they always have been, of the friendliest nature."

WHITE OFFICEHOLDERS IN ALABAMA ALARMED

Fear the President Will Con-
tinue Crusade.

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn., Nov. 12.—Now that President Roosevelt is removing Federal officeholders in Alabama who are leaders in the "lily white" movement there is much anxiety among those still holding offices as to their future. Dr. J. W. Hughes, postmaster at Birmingham; W. S. Reese, district attorney at Montgomery, and Frank Simmons, United States marshal at Mobile, have been prominently identified with the opposition to the negroes, and politicians think they will be the next to go.

ENTRIES FOR THE RACES AT BENNING TOMORROW

First race—All ages; six and one-half furlongs: Forward, 102; Watkins Overton, 105; Tugay Bay, 100; White Ghost, 100; Ginkie, 97; Pigeon Post, 128; Paul Clifford, 125; Hackensack, 105; Charmel, 97; and Colony, 100.
Second race—Two-year-olds; six furlongs: Mrs. Frank Foster, 109; Dinkie, 109; Lady Sarah, 109; Bassino, 109; Ink, 112; Goldie, 107; Musidora, 107; Great American, 109; Happonacker, 112; Warton, 112; Court Maid, 107; C. Rosenfeld, 104; Ray, 104; *H. L. Coleman, 102; and *L. B. Poterlate, 104.
Third race—Highweight Handicap; a mile and forty yards: Dublin, 149; Young Henry, 130; Caribuncle, 125; G. Whittier, 129; Nevermore, 120; Captain Arnold, 118; Examiner, 118; First Court, 114; Rex Howard, 112; and Gates, 110.
Fourth race—Selling; two-year-olds; six furlongs: Reckless, 105; Dark Planet, 114; Hilarity, 102; Chiclé, 105; Dinkie, 102; Bright Girl, 102; *Cincinnati, 105; Captivator, 109; Turnpike, 105; Trapeze, 107; Toscan, 115; and *Watkins Overton, 102. The following can start as any of the above may be withdrawn: *Biddle Bender, 102; Right & True, 107; *Zealotry, 98, and Sparkleher, 113.
Fifth race—Selling; for three-year-olds at 1 upward; a mile and fifty yards: Bar Le Duc, 107; Right of the Garter, 112; Goldie, 107; Musidora, 107; Great American, 109; Happonacker, 112; Warton, 112; Court Maid, 107; C. Rosenfeld, 104; Ray, 104; *H. L. Coleman, 102; and *L. B. Poterlate, 104.
Sixth race—Handicap; four years and up; Mile and a furlong: Douro, 126; St. Flannan, 120; Contend, 120; Gold Cure, 115; Oranien, 114; Carlisle, 114; The Huguenot, 112; Jim Clark, 105; Major Mansi, 100; Provost, 100; Cogswell, 100; and Atsiko, 88.
*Apprentice allowances.

PRESIDENT KEEPS HIS DESTINATION SECRET

He Fears Excursionists Will
Scare Away Bears.

VETOES GOVERNOR'S PLANS

Prefers to Hunt Alone, Thus Disap-
pointing Governor Longino, Who
Had Arranged to Go Along.

PITTSBURG, Pa., Nov. 12.—(On board the President's train.)—When President Roosevelt arose this morning slightly before 8 o'clock his train was hurrying through the smoky iron district of Pennsylvania. As soon as he finished breakfast, with Secretary Cortelyou and Dr. Lung, the President pitched into his correspondence and during the day will clean up all his official work so that tomorrow and for four days succeeding he may devote his entire attention to the bears and panthers that are lurking in the Mississippi canyons.

For prudential reasons the President desires to keep his exact destination a secret for the present. It may be said that his camp will be pitched about 150 miles from Memphis. If the location of his hunting grounds were made public the President fears excursionists would be run upon his trail and what bears there are in that section might be scared away no matter how fierce and bold they might be under ordinary circumstances. It was for this very reason that the President vetoed the plans of Governor Longino and his associates, who had prepared to hunt with him.

Had the governor's idea been carried out the hunt would have resolved itself into an armed convention. Dozens of men would have joined the party, and swamps would have been beaten clean of every living thing. The game would have been driven into the clearings by the army of gunners, and all the real sport would have been eliminated. Under the present plan the hunting party will consist of only three or four persons at the most.

President Fish, of the Illinois Central Railroad, who will entertain the President in Mississippi, will meet the party at Memphis.

CHINESE MINISTRY TO BE VACANT ABOUT SIX WEEKS

Sir Liang Cheng, who succeeds Mr. Wu as minister from China, is expected to reach Washington about January 1 next. Mr. Wu, the retiring minister, will leave Washington for San Francisco next Tuesday.

DENIED BY SENATOR PRITCHARD

Senator Pritchard of North Carolina says there is no truth in the statement that he is indignant with the Administration because of the treatment he received in the campaign recently closed. His relations with the President, he said, are most cordial.

It is the intention of the Senator to return to North Carolina at the end of his term and resume the practice of law. He will continue to be a factor in the politics of the State.

KAISER GOES GUNNING.

LONDON, Nov. 12.—The Kaiser again went shooting this morning. Splendid weather prevailed.